

Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JUNE 1990

In this, the second report of 1990, we briefly discuss forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes at the end of June 1990.

Although a large number of insects and diseases have been active during June, most problems are only of a more or less localized nature. Thus, the lack of major pest problems on a large scale is one of the most noteworthy highlights.

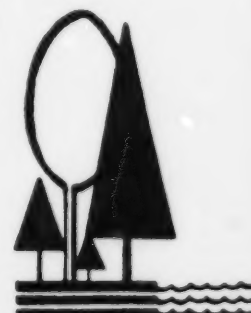
Spruce budworm has largely completed its feeding period and aerial surveys for defoliation are getting under way. It appears that defoliation will be mapped in northern New Brunswick, in patches in eastern Prince Edward Island, and probably in a small part of Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

Hemlock looper larvae are common in collections from New Brunswick and western Prince Edward Island and were also found in Nova Scotia. Larvae, at the end of June, are generally small and, as yet, no noticeable feeding has occurred. In some areas, larvae are numerous, similar in numbers to those present in samples from last year's outbreak in the Christmas Mountain area of Northumberland County, New Brunswick, and high enough to cause concern about expected defoliation.

Gypsy moth larvae were found at several locations in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, in areas where the presence of the insect has previously been known. Larvae are not numerous, are small, and no appreciable defoliation has been noted at any of the locations to date. The distribution of pheromone traps to cooperators is well under way and trapping will commence in the second half of July.

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Scleroderris canker infections are much more common in New Brunswick than in the past few years. Shoot damage is widespread in red pine and jack pine plantations in western New Brunswick. All lower branches of all trees are infected in some areas. The disease is also present elsewhere. Results of laboratory testing will not be available until late fall, but the fact that all infections have been found on lower branches is encouraging with respect to the North American vs. European race question. **Scleroderris** canker should be of special consideration during pest assessment surveys in pine plantations.

Serpentine leafminer is again widespread in northern New Brunswick, causing trembling aspen foliage to turn silvery-gray in color. The infestation continues to spread southward. The effects of repeated foliage damage are manifested in twig- and branch-dieback and in generally poor vigor in many northern areas.

Other forest insects and diseases active at the end of June included:

Birch casebearer and **birch leafminer** caused various degrees of foliage browning in all three provinces; **fall cankerworm** caused moderate defoliation of elm in Charlottetown, P.E.I.; **ash rust** caused severe and moderate leaf browning along the river near Jordan Falls, Shelburne County, N.S.; **greenstriped mapleworm** adults were caught in some light traps in numbers much higher than in previous years, indicating possible spot outbreaks in all three provinces; **polyphemus** moth adults are higher than ever before in some light traps; **elm leafminer**; **elm leaf beetle** will cause moderate or severe browning in Fredericton; **pine leaf adelgid** caused shoot mortality on white pine in western Nova Scotia; **balsam woolly adelgid**; **needle cast** on Douglas fir in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia; **spruce beetle**; **eastern larch beetle**; **witches' broom** of **balsam fir**; **aspen casebearer** in Prince Edward Island; **white pine blister rust**; **anthracnose** on sugar maple; **pear thrips** from all three provinces without appreciable foliage damage; a few forest tent caterpillar larvae here and there, the possible start of the next population build-up; **uglynest caterpillar** creating large unsightly colonies along roadsides in widespread areas, etc.

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